

Mansfield Board of Education  
Policy Committee Meeting  
April 22, 2015  
Draft Minutes

**Attendees:**

Jay Rueckl, Chair, Katherine Paulhus, Carrie Silver-Bernstein, Susannah Everett, Interim Superintendent Richard Kisiel

**Other Board Members in Attendance**

Martha Kelly, Kathy Ward

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mr. Rueckl.

**Minutes:** Moved by Ms. Paulhus to approve the meeting minutes of August 20, 2014. Seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein.

In favor: Rueckl, Paulhus, Silver-Bernstein

Abstention: Everett

Mr. Rueckl presented an overview of the policy issue and pertinent questions associated with a resolution of the policy question.

**Hearing from Visitors**

Allison Altieri, President of the Vinton PTO, commented on the provisions of the BOE Code of Ethics regarding gift giving.

**Review of the BOE Code of Ethics**

The Committee heard comments from Carrie Holcomb, President of the Mansfield Education Association, Middle School Principal Candace Morrell, and Board of Education members Kathleen Ward and Martha Kelly and then discussed several policy options, including proposed language provided by the Town Council in a January 30, 2015 memorandum.

**Motion:** Moved by Ms. Paulhus, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein to recommend to the full Board of Education the adoption of the following:

(a) To revise the definition of a gift in the Code of Ethics to include the following:

**Gifts to Individuals.** Incidental gifts to employees from students, parents or guardians are not prohibited provided that such gifts are less than \$25.00 in value.

**Group Gifts.** A school employee is not prohibited from accepting an unsolicited gift or several gifts during the school year, from groups of students, parent, or guardians, with an aggregated value up to \$150, if the gift is identified only as being from a group and the identity of the givers and amounts given are not identified to the recipient. Group gifts given to the classroom or school shall be in accordance with Board policy and school regulations.

(b) To direct the superintendent to establish administrative regulations that guide students, parents, or guardians in making decisions regarding group gifts.

Motion approved unanimously

Mr. Rueckl thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Rueckl, Policy Committee Chair